

Overdimension/Overweight Task Force to Tackle Changes

There's a lot going on at MoDOT's Motor Carrier Services these days. We're building new technology, handling more requests for bigger loads than ever before and running to keep up

to determine if changes can be made that allow carriers to take advantage of business opportunities while travelers and the infrastructure remain safe.



with the ever-changing motor-carrier industry. But how can we do all this while protecting highways, bridges and the safety of travelers?

A new task force of representatives from the motor-carrier and insurance industries as well as staff members from the Missouri State Highway Patrol and MoDOT will help. The Overdimension/Overweight Task Force is looking at current oversize regulations

The task force met Nov. 16 in Jefferson City, and the team would like your help. Your comments and concerns are welcome. Please e-mail them to: contactmcs@modot.mo.gov. Keep an eye on our web site and upcoming newsletters for updates on the group's progress.

Check This Out!

PRISM: What It Is and How It Will Help

The Performance and Registration Information Systems Management program is a partnership between federal and state agencies that promotes carrier safety. It identifies carriers and equipment used in hauling operations through the pro-rate licensing process.

All carriers must obtain a USDOT number to comply with PRISM – even those who lease their equipment or services to another firm. That way, if Motor Carrier Services has to place a carrier out of service, MoDOT can inform the lessor who can then break their lease and find other work.

Use the MCS-150 Motor Carrier Identification form that was included in your IRP renewal packet to get a USDOT number. If you need another copy of the form or have questions about PRISM, please call us at 573-751-7100.

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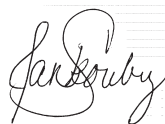
MoDOT MCS Hits the Road

In these past few months, I've had the opportunity to meet many of you and to learn your challenges. I'll continue to do this as director of Motor Carrier Services because MoDOT and the motor-carrier industry must be true partners in making our transportation system safe.

I've also visited many state, federal and international organizations. I tell them about your concerns and we share our best practices. This exchange can lead us to find solutions others have used that will work for us, too. Other MoDOT managers represent us all on two important teams – the committee that's re-writing the International Registration Program and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance program initiatives committee. When it's complete next year, MoDOT hopes to share the success story of our integrated computer system with everyone!

Thanks to Missouri's voters, MoDOT will be able to address your concerns about highway conditions. The passage of Amendment 3 means we'll be able to do more work sooner than expected. See the story inside for more specifics and get ready to see more work zones.

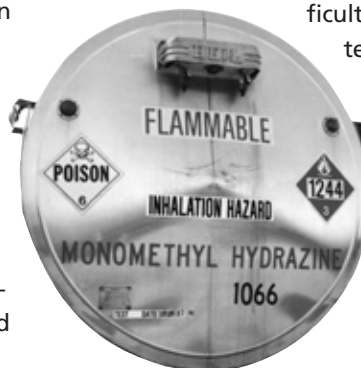
In the meantime, please continue your dialogue with us. Share your challenges; work with us to find solutions. You will find this newsletter filled with information that will make your job and MoDOT's more safe and efficient. Let's keep in touch!



Motor Carrier Services Director

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Haz Mat Regulations

The Research and Special Programs Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register September 24, 2004. The proposed regulations attempt to clarify hazardous materials regulations. New definitions and requirements are given for firms that transport hazardous materials, and for those that offer or accept hazardous materials for transportation. Firms classified



as "offerors" of hazardous materials have long found difficulty in determining if, and which, hazardous materials regulations apply to them. The proposed changes attempt to answer these questions.

RSPA-04-19173 (HM-223A); Hazardous Materials; Applicability of the Hazardous Materials Regulations to "Persons Who Offer" Hazardous Materials for Transportation in Commerce; Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM); Published 9/24/2004, 69 FR 57245.

MCS Reaches Out

In 2004, Motor Carrier Services conducted 44 free seminars across the state, reaching over 790 people. These sessions covered a wide range of subjects including general motor-carrier safety, hazardous-materials compliance, transportation-security issues, IFTA, IRP and Overweight/Over dimension requirements, the new hours-of-service rules and agricultural carrier operations.

New sessions now in development will address driver pre-trip and equipment inspections and the share-the-road campaign. How do you find out more about upcoming sessions? Check our web site under Motor Carrier Safety and then choose Safety Training. We'll also list them in future newsletters.

Did You Know?

If you have a USDOT number and would like to check your federal safety-rating status, visit www.safer.fmcsa.dot.gov. Find inaccurate information assigned to your firm? Use the DataQs application available on the web site to report your concern.

Motor Carrier Services has a new e-mail address! Send your questions, concerns and observations to contactmcs@modot.mo.gov. We want to hear from you! Please do not send requests for permits, licensing or other credentials to this address.

Amendment 3 Funding To Build Smoother Roads

Funding from passage of Amendment 3 will provide thousands of miles of smooth roads on Missouri's most heavily traveled highways, officials with the Missouri Department of Transportation announced recently.

MoDOT unveiled the Smooth Roads Initiative, a plan to provide 2,200 miles of smoother pavement, brighter road markings and other safety improvements in three years. The initiative is the first part of a three-part plan to use Amendment 3 funds to improve the state's highway system.

"Missourians spoke loud and clear when they voted for Amendment 3," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "By an almost four-to-one margin, they said they're not happy with current road conditions, and they want them fixed. Starting today, that's just what we're going to do."

While a small percentage, the 2,200 highway miles account for 60 percent of all traffic on the state system. About 86 percent of Missouri's population lives within 10 miles of one of the selected roads. "We'll focus first on the highways that benefit the most people," Rahn said.

Improvements will include better pavement for a smoother drive, as well as brighter stripes and signs, reflective

pavement markers separating lanes, improved shoulders with rumble strips, and safer guardrails. "Time and time again, our customers tell us the most important thing we can do is make our roads smoother and easier to drive," said MoDOT Chief Engineer Kevin Keith. "That's the focus of this program."

MoDOT will invest about \$400 million in this initiative, which will be financed by bonds backed by Amendment 3 revenue.

In addition to the Smooth Roads Initiative, MoDOT will also accelerate projects already planned in its five-year construction program, as well as determine new major projects that can be completed. Specifics will be announced in coming months, after the department has worked with local officials to determine the state's highest priorities.

Please visit MoDOT's web site – www.modot.org – for more details on the Smooth Roads Initiative and other planned Amendment 3 improvements, including a map showing the 2,200 miles of selected roads.

Renewals Flood MCS

Registration and operating authority requests are pouring into Motor Carrier Services. This year, because of the implementation of PRISM, processing takes more time. We're working hard to get everyone properly registered and to get your 2005 credentials to you by Dec. 31. Here are some tips that can help us meet that goal:

1. Verify the name on your application matches that on your registrations with the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration and Missouri's Secretary of State and on your proof-of-insurance forms.
2. Review your application for accuracy and make needed updates.

3. Submit all required documents such as personal-property tax receipts/waivers, heavy vehicle use tax, titles, leases and insurance.

4. Sign your applications.

5. Applications for 2004 credentials must be filed and paid before 2005 papers can be processed on those vehicles.

Incomplete applications or inconsistent information could result in the delay of processing and denial of credentials.

6. If you are planning to visit our office, arrive early in the day with all documents in hand and all forms completed.

Our office hours are 7:30 to 4:00.

Congress Extends Current Hours-of-service Rules

Published by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance - October 1, 2004

The U.S. Congress passed and President Bush signed into law an extension of the TEA-21 Highway Program that also extends the current hours-of-service rules for one year.

The legislation specifies that the current hours-of-service rules are to remain in effect until Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration develops a new set of regulations or until September 30, 2005, whichever comes first. This new

law overrides any decision the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia may make with respect to the request for a stay by FMCSA, CVSA and the American Trucking Associations. As of the time the Congress acted, the court had not rendered a decision with respect to the stay.

NOTE: American Trucking Associations (plural) is the true name of the organization.

Medical Exemption Program Progresses

What is a person to do if they want to operate a commercial vehicle but cannot pass the physical exam? For the past year, MoDOT's medical-exemption program has helped drivers earn a living while keeping all motorists safe.

Skill performance-evaluation certificates are granted to people with certain vision impairments, insulin-treated diabetes mellitus or a limb impairment or amputation. SPE certificates are available for only these physical conditions. If for any other reason a person is not physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle, MoDOT cannot issue them a certificate.

Motor Carrier Services grants the certificates for intra-state drivers through an application process. Depending on the type of medical condition, several forms and trips to the doctor might be needed.

Interstate drivers can also apply for exemptions with the U.S. DOT. Under federal rules, SPE certificates can be issued to limb-impaired/amputee drivers while medical exemptions go to drivers with vision impairments or insulin-treated diabetes mellitus. While the terms used by state and federal programs differ, the intent is the same.

To obtain an application packet or ask about MoDOT's medical exemption program, please call 1-866-831-6277, ext. 2.

How to File a Complaint

If you have safety or economic concerns about a motor carrier and wish to submit a complaint, please send us a signed letter with as much detail as possible. It's particularly helpful to have the carrier's name, US DOT number and a description of the vehicle (if applicable).

Please send the letter by mail, fax or e-mail to:

MoDOT Motor Carrier Services

P.O. Box 893, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0893

Fax: 573-751-4354

E-mail: contactmcs@modot.mo.gov

Clarification to Instructions on the Motor Carrier Identification Report

There has been some confusion about the instructions for obtaining USDOT numbers. Let's try again with help from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:

- *Interstate* motor carriers must complete the MCS-150 and MCS-150A forms on the FMCSA website, www.usdotnumberregistration.com
- *Intrastate* motor carriers must complete and return the Missouri MCS-150 form to MoDOT Motor Carrier Services.
- *Registrants* – People who lease their equipment and/or services to another motor carrier and operate under that motor carrier's authority, must complete either the Missouri MCS-150 form (and return it to MoDOT MCS) or the federal MCS-150 form online at www.usdotnumberregistration.com, indicating "**Vehicle Registrant Only**" on line 21. Federal form MCS-150A is not required of lessors.

We apologize for the confusion. If you need further assistance or clarification please call us toll-free at 1-866-831-6277 or 573-751-3358.

MCS is Making Progress

Tired of Waiting on Hold for Permits? Go Online!

If you have an escrow account, you can now apply for permits online. All you need is a user id assigned by Motor Carrier Services and tel-net client software that's available from the Internet – if you don't already have it. You'll be able to order permits, check your account balance and see all your account activities 24 hours a day. Imagine – no more waiting on hold! Ask us about it the next time you call to order a permit or call 573-526-5338 now.

New Computer System Moving Forward

We're well into the process of designing our new computer system. MCS employees and representatives from other agencies who'll use it have met with the folks who'll develop our new programs.

We're thrilled to report we're on schedule, aiming for full implementation in August 2005. When it's finished, you'll be able to file applications, renewals, permits and fuel taxes, and make payments through the Internet. We'll send your paper credentials back by e-mail, fax or mail service. Stay tuned.

New Hours and Moving Update

New Working Hours - Motor Carrier Services hours of service are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. central time.

Moving Update - Motor Carrier Services' move to a new location has begun! The Enforcement team is now located at 1320 Creek Trail Drive in Jefferson City. Other MCS employees will follow in early 2005. You can still contact us at the same phone numbers and through our P.O. Box 893, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0893 mailing address. We will keep you informed on the new facility and our move date.

New Procedures Improve Violations Process

In August 2004, Motor Carrier Services' enforcement group took over the first steps of violation cases. This should change the experience for carriers who find themselves out of compliance.

Before, firms cited for violations received a letter of formal legal action from state attorneys. Now, MCS enforcement staff will notify carriers and informally discuss violations, compliance and penalties. Together, they'll discuss the steps to regain compliance, operating authority and to resolve penalties. Legal action by MoDOT's chief counsel is reserved only for those who aren't willing to try to resolve compliance issues in this manner.

By handling initial violations work in-house, the time between a compliance review or investigation to the point when a violation notice is issued will be reduced from several months to just a few weeks. That coupled with the more informal resolution procedures should make the whole process less stressful for all.

MCS Represented on International Committees

Mary Jo Pointer, motor carrier manager, is a committee member on the International Registration Plan-Rewrite Working Group. This group will recommend changes to the current document and work to ensure the new plan is clear, uniform and up to date with current technologies. Ben Goodin, motor carrier enforcement administrator, is the chair of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Program Initiatives Committee. The committee reviews and promotes the best safety practices of commercial motor carriers in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Datelines

Dec. 2

Penalties charged on late payment of license fees

Dec. 31

2004 apportioned license expires

Dec. 31

MCS Jefferson City office open for filers needing fuel license, license plates and authority only. All other MoDOT offices are closed.

Jan. 1

Enforcement of 2005 license and authority begins

Jan. 10

Governor's Inauguration – If declared a state holiday, OD/OW Permits will be the only MoDOT office open for business

Jan. 17

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day State Holiday – OD/OW Permits office open, other MoDOT offices closed

Jan. 31

4th quarter fuel tax returns due

Feb. 11

Lincoln Day State Holiday – OD/OW Permits office open, all other MoDOT offices closed

Feb. 21

Washington's Birthday State Holiday – OD/OW Permits office open, all other MoDOT offices closed

Feb. 28

2005 IFTA license and decals must be displayed

Note

MoDOT's Motor Carrier office at 1617 Southridge Drive in Jefferson City will be open Friday, Dec. 31 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for last-minute filers for 2005 license, registration and authority credentials. All other MoDOT offices will be closed for the holiday.

News on Wheels

Missouri Department of Transportation
Motor Carrier Services
P.O. Box 893
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.7100
Toll Free: 866.831.6277
Fax: 573.526.3651

www.carrier.state.mo.us

Additional copies available upon request. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to the address at left.

Motor Carrier Services Director
Jan Skouby

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News on **Wheels**

Missouri Department of Transportation
Motor Carrier Services
P.O. Box 893
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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Jefferson City, MO
Permit No. 24

Motor Carrier Services	Address	Phone & Fax
International Registration Plan Regulations, IRP applications, reciprocity, trip permits, temporary authorizations, license plates, cab cards	Location: 1617 Southridge Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 Mail: P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-6433 Fax: 573-751-0916
International Fuel Tax Agreement Regulations, Missouri IFTA applications, temporary fuel permits	Location: 1617 Southridge Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 Mail: P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-6433 Fax: 573-751-0916
Overdimension and Overweight Regulations, permits, blanket permits	Location: 2211 St. Mary's Blvd. Jefferson City, MO 65109 Mail: P. O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-2871 or (800) 877-8499 Fax: 573-751-7408
Single State Registration, Interstate Exempt, Intrastate Authority, Housemovers License, Hazardous Waste and Waste Tires Applications, SSRS receipts, stamps, stickers, licenses, proof of insurance	Location: 1617 Southridge Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 Mail: P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-3358 or 866-831-6277 Fax: 573-522-6708
Safety and HM Regulations/Enforcement Information, regulations, training, compliance reviews, educational contacts, complaint investigations	Location: 1320 Creek Trail Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 Mail: P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-7117 or 866-831-6277 Fax: 573-751-4354

Web sites: www.carrier.state.mo.us and www.modot.org